NORWAY SCAN PRESENTS:

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SPECIAL THANKS TO SOOTOPOLIS

IT'S THE SEASON FOR CAKES.
SFX: SILLY SMILE
ほへ～
YOU ALWAYS GETS OVER-EXCITED ...
WHEN IT COMES TO THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

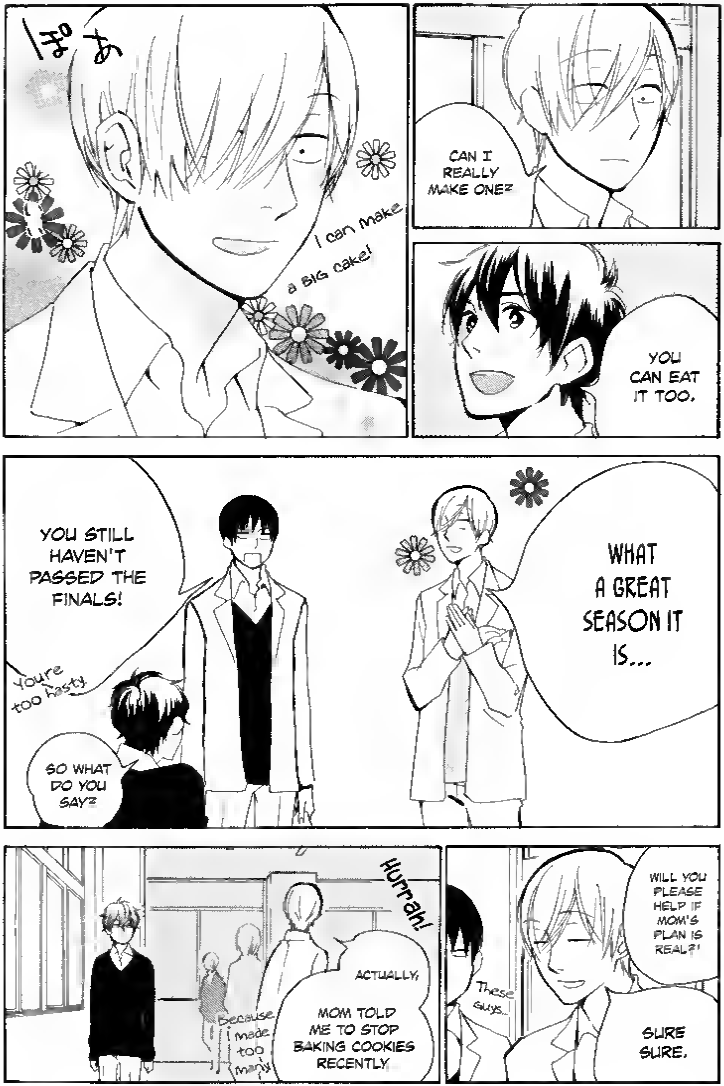
ISN'T IT TOO EARLY TO CELEBRATE? YOU STILL HAVE FINALS COMING UP.
They just announced the exam schedule you know
CHRISTMAS MEANS
CAKES.
I'M SO ENVIOUS OF YOUR THOUGHTLESSNESS GOOD LUCK WITH MAKE-UP EXAMS.
DECEMBER MEANS CHRISTMAS.
FINALS MEAN DECEMBER.

I HAVEN'T FAILED IN ANY SUBJECT YET.
YOU WERE LUCKY, THAT'S ALL.
IN MY OPINION, IT WAS MORE THAN LUCK.
CAKE.
YOU SAID?
WHAT'S WITH YOUR CONFIDENCE?

WHAT WAS THAT?
WHY DID YOU SIGH DEEPLY?
NOTHING
I JUST GET GLOOMY WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES.
.....
HAAAAA~

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
I SEE~
MY MOM, WHO HAS A GIFT FOR MAKING BAD CAKES,
IS PLANNING TO BAKE A TWO-TIER CAKE.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HOW HORRIBLE HER CAKES ARE!
"I SEE?"
Erm, Okay..
IT'S AS HORRIBLE AS A BREEZE IS COOL; AS HORRIBLE AS THE OCEAN IS CALM; AS HORRIBLE AS THE HORIZON IS DEEP!
AS IF WE CARE.
It's just horrible!
Now I'm doomed!
Weeh~
WELL, IT'S JUST A CHRISTMAS CAKE.
You're so mean!

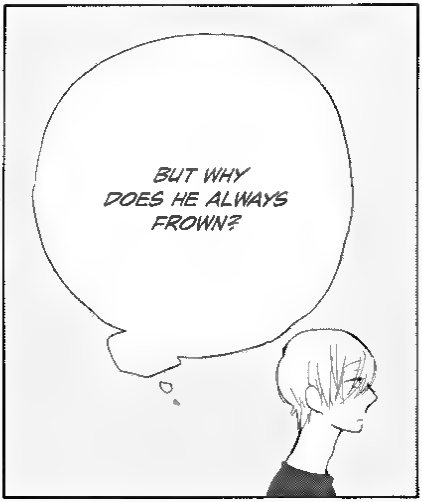
IF SHE REALLY BAKES IT, I SHOULD ASK YOU FOR HELP, HEISUKE...
SO I DON'T KNOW IF SHE MEANT IT OR NOT.
IT SEEMS MOM IS GOING TO MAKE IT IN SECRET.
IT'S NOT DECIDED YET, RIGHT?
MAKE A CAKE BEFORE MY MOM DOES!
SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?
OKAY.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SIBLINGS?
THEY'RE USELESS!
A BIG CAKE?
YES!


I can make a big cake!
CAN I REALLY MAKE ONE?
YOU CAN EAT IT TOO.
WHAT A GREAT SEASON IT IS...
YOU STILL HAVEN'T PASSED THE FINALS!
You're too hasty.
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
Hurrah!
ACTUALLY,
MOM TOLD ME TO STOP BAKING COOKIES RECENTLY
Because I made too many.
These guys...
WILL YOU PLEASE HELP IF MOM'S PLAN IS REAL?!
SURE SURE.

PFFT!
フイ
フイ
Pfft? What's wrong with him?
GLARE
.....
SFX WALK AWAY
HAHAHA.
NEVER FORGETS TO GIVE YOU COLD EYES.
THAT KID
SFX DUST OFF
HE'S GONE TO GRANNY'S.
YOUR GRAND-MOTHER?
Let's go back to the classroom.
NO, THEY LIVE TOO FAR AWAY.
I SEE.
AKI ISN'T AT MY HOUSE TODAY.
Ah,
OH.
Right, KOTARO SAID HE WANTS TO COME PLAY AT YOUR PLACE.
.....

Hey, why should I bother following you guys?
I'M STRANGELY FEELING A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE.
I'LL ASK WHEN HE RETURNS.
SUZUKI, WHY DON'T YOU COME AND STUDY WITH US?
WHAT?
THAT FRESHMAN'S WORDS ARE STUCK IN MY MIND
Hmph.
I'm not sure but I THINK MAKING A BIG CAKE WILL BE FUN.
THE WORLD IS MOVING AROUND SO PEACEFULLY.
SEEMS YOU'RE EXCITED.
OH MY,
SO YOU'RE GOING TO HOLD QUITE AN EXTRAORDINARY CHRISTMAS EVENT.
you don't have enough love.
Senpai
IT REALLY CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD.

A PUPPY IN HER HOUSE.
GRANNY HAS...


BUT WHY DOES HE ALWAYS FROWN?

He must be strong
IS YOUR GRANDPA COOL?
I HEARD HE'S VERY FOND OF AKI
GOOD, GOOD~
A PIGGY BACK RIDE AT HIS AGE? THAT'S AMAZING.

SUZUKI SAID HE'LL BE A LITTLE LATE
OH~
AND
GRANDPA GAVE ME...
A PIGGYBACK RIDE!
YOU'RE SO LUCKY~

BIG BRO~
GIVE ME A PIGGYBACK~
NO WAY.

I wonder how he learned that sort of phrase
SO CHILDREN KOTARO'S AGE STILL BELIEVE IN HIM.
SANTA CLAUS, HUH?
THAT'S NOT BREAKING EVEN.
I'm gonna ask for a more expensive present.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "BREAKING EVEN?"
ASK PAPA OR ICHI-NII FOR IT.
Ichi-nii is your eldest brother right?
THAT'S UNFAIR~
OR MAKE A WISH TO SANTA CLAUS LIKE, A PIGGYBACK-TICKET.
WHAT~?
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN EXCITED..
ABOUT SANTA CLAUS.
JUST LIKE ME.
OH, ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE WHOSE DREAM WAS TRAMPLED EARLY?
AH,
YOU KNOW...
MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE MY FAMILY NEVER HELD ANYTHING REMOTELY RESEMBLING CHRISTMAS
BECAUSE I KNEW THERE WAS NO SANTA SINCE LONG TIME AGO.
WOW, THAT TOTALLY SOUNDS LIKE YOU.

THERE IS
NO SANTA CLAUS ?
AH.
AH!
SFX: SHOCKED
WELL,
HONESTLY SPEAKING, I DON'T KNOW IF THERE IS A SANTA OR NOT.
Em. well...
Oh, why don't you ask your dad or mom for the truth?
He's being depressed again.
.....
TAP!
DREAMS SUCH AS SANTA CLAUS...
ARE FATED TO BE SHATTERED SOMEDAY
HAA.
I see.
IT'S A RITE OF PASSAGE - A PART OF GROWING UP.
YUF
YUF

.....
I SEE.
TIME WILL HEAL IT,
OR HE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT ON HIS OWN.
KOTARO STILL BELIEVES IN SANTA, ANYWAY
LITTLE SISTER CRASHED KOTARO'S DREAM LATELY,
AND BIG SIS CRASHED MINE.
Is it part of your family tradition?
YOUR FAMILY IS CRUEL.
Five siblings
Kotaro's age
I'M SCARED OF THE UPCOMING CHRISTMAS
Mom's plan is scary
RIGHT, RIGHT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER AS LONG AS THEY GET CHRISTMAS GIFTS.
We'll study in Hiesuke's room
Play quietly will you?

YEAH!
REALLY?
BY THE WAY,
ARE YOUR FAMILY GOING TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS PARTY?
THERE REALLY IS A SANTA CLAUS!
PAPA SAID SO!
WHAT'S WRONG?
CHEER UP
My sister keeps insisting there's no Santa too
SFX: DEPRESSED

MY FAMILY IS GOING TO MAKE THIS BIIIG CAKE!
MOM said so!
Wow~
!
IT'S A SECRET TO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS...
PARTY?
YEAH!

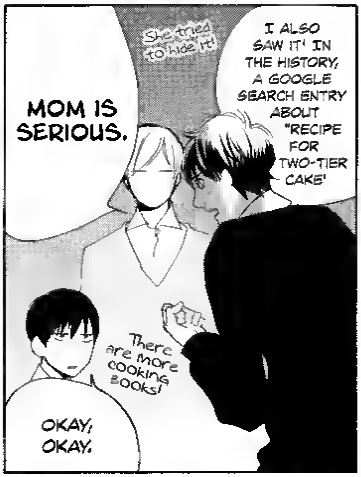
Hehe~
Aren't you jealous
WE'LL PUT A STAR AT THE TOP TOO!
I-
I-
I LOVE CHRISTMAS TREES!
WE'LL HAVE A CHRISTMAS TREE TOO.

SO YOU WILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS PARTY IN AKI'S HOUSE TOO!
Oooh...!
PARTY.
AN EVENT WHERE YOU EAT DELICIOUS FOOD!
CHRISTMAS,
WE ALSO HAVE A TREE AND A CAKE.
THEN, IT'S A PARTY!
IS HEISUKE COMING TO YOUR PARTY TOO?
.....!!
CHRISTMAS?

OKAY, THEN LET'S HAVE A PARTY ON THAT DAY.
P-
PARTY?
AKI, DO YOU WANT SOMETHING?
PARTY?
SFX BRIGHTEN
WHAT ABOUT INVITATION CARDS?
INVITATION?
AH, COME TO THINK OF IT...
SFX WARMTH
YOU GIVE THEM TO PEOPLE YOU WANT TO HAVE A PARTY WITH.
INVITATION CARDS ARE PIECES OF PAPER SAYING "PLEASE COME TO MY PARTY."

SFX: TADA
crayons
?
SFX: OOF!
.....
I SAW MOM SHARPEN A RUBBER SPATULA LAST NIGHT.
スート
YOU MEAN, A KNIFE.
SFX: CRY
Weeh~
As I thought, I'm screwed up!

... SO I WANT TO INVITE YOU.
WILL YOU PLEASE COME HANG OUT IN MY HOUSE ON CHRISTMAS DAY?
OKAY-
YOU JUST WANT TO HANG OUT, DON'T YOU?
Why do you want me involved?


She tried to hide it!
I ALSO SAW IT' IN THE HISTORY, A GOOGLE SEARCH ENTRY ABOUT "RECIPE FOR TWO-TIER CAKE'
MOM IS SERIOUS.
There are more cooking books!
OKAY, OKAY.

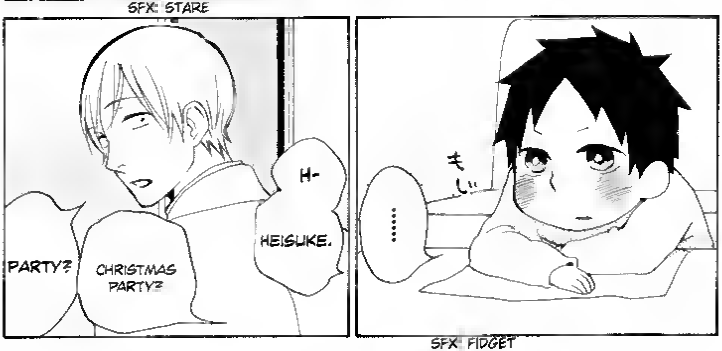
Seriously?!
My siblings are fighting over a chocolate cake or a strawberry cake.
They get along well
They're already making Christmas plan
Siblings?

HUH.
I'M ALSO ASKING HEISUKE TO BAKE A CAKE'
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SUZUKI?
Ahh I see
It's an important matter!

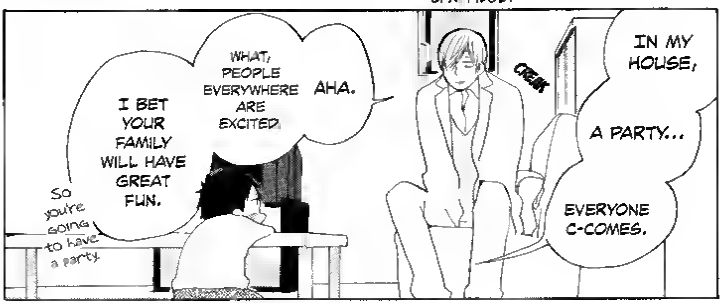
CAN I REALLY MAKE ONE?

I'M HOME.
!
ぬり
ぬり
SFX: SCRIBBLE
SFX: PICK UP
WHAT KIND OF CAKE SHOULD I MAKE?
うき
うき
SFX: HUM
キィ
SFX: CREAK
HUH?
……
A CHRISTMAS PICTURE.
……
ばっ
SFX: WIDE!

SFX: STARE



SFX: FIDGET



I'VE DECIDED TO HANG OUT WITH SATO AND SUZUKI THAT DAY.
SFX. FIDGET
YOU'RE LUCKY.
SFX. NOD
HEISUKE,
DO YOU HAVE A PARTY TOO?
NOPE, I DON'T THINK MY FAMILY WILL HOLD ONE.
IT'S A GOOD CHANCE TO MAKE A CAKE THIS YEAR,
AND I CAN'T MISS THA-

I GUESS THE CHRISTMAS SEASON MAKES PEOPLE CHEERIER.
.....
HUH?
HE'S SO FULL OF ENERGY.
AND YOU'RE VOID TO IT.
ISN'T YOUR COUSIN EXCITED ALL THE TIME?
Regardless of the season
WHEN I THOUGHT HE WAS STILL SHOCKED OVER SANTA CLAUS, HE ALREADY GOT OVER IT AND MADE THE NEXT MOVE
I THINK SO.
SO WAS IT JUST AKI THAT WANTED YOU TO COME.
IT'S NOT LIKE AUNTIE'S INVITED ME,
AND I DON'T REALLY WANT TO VISIT THEIR HOUSE ALONE...
Unless my family goes there with me
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?

I've heard of it lately
A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DID EXACTLY THE SAME THING THAT THE LITTLE KID TRIED.
Do you really need to bring it up?
INVITING TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY...
HM.
BAD THINGS HAPPEN IN LIFE.
IT SEEMS HE'S DISAPPOINTED,
BUT WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?
I'LL JUST BE THANKFUL FOR HIS FEELINGS.
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE TOLD "YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LOVE," SENPAI.
I PRAY HE GETS OVER IT SOON.
THAT'S THE BEST THING
you can do

YOU MUSTN'T LOOK AT IT AS IF THERE WERE NOTHING YOU CAN DO,
YOU OUGHT TO APPROACH HIM; AND SERIOUSLY PITY HIM.
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY CONSIDER HIM.
Did he hear us?
HAA...
SENPAI.
HAA...
SENPAI, YOU'RE TOO COLD.
I THINK LOVE IS... PASSION.
SFX: WALK AWAY

PASSION ...
PITY, HUH...
AKI...
AS WELL AS I
Passion
.....
WELL...
I don't get what he said
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT GUY?
SHOULD I HAVE SAID SOMETHING DIFFERENT?
WHAT ELSE COULD I SAY?
REGRETTED IT.
HE JUST WANTED TO PICK A FIGHT WITH YOU.
An invitation, my appointment with you guys, my cousin's despair, ...Aren't there no bad guy here
BUT REALLY, THOUGH, IS IT SUCH A BIG DEAL?

ずーーーん
SFX DEPRESSED
IT WAS SUCH A BIG DEAL TO AKI
I DIDN'T KNOW...
I THINK HE BADLY WANTED TO INVITE YOU.
He's very gloomy
OOPS
MOM.
SFX DEPRESSED
?
LOOK AT THIS.

IT WAS THE PICTURE FROM THAT TIME
TH-
THIS IS-
A drawing
HE SAID IT S AN INVITA-TION CARD.
THAT HAS NEVER BEEN HANDED TO ME...
THE INVITATION CARD...
.....

THAT INVITATION CARD WAS THE FINAL STRAW...
I FEEL GUILTY.
SFX: DOWN
YOU'VE BEEN ACCUSING ME OF BEING "COLD"...
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD TO HIM,
BUT HIS BACK...
IS GUT-WRENCHING.
SFX: DEPRESSED
Oh, there he is again.
SFX: DEPRESSED
EVEN IF I TRIED TO PITY HIM.
BUT I FEEL LIKE I'D BE DEPRESSED JUST THE SAME...

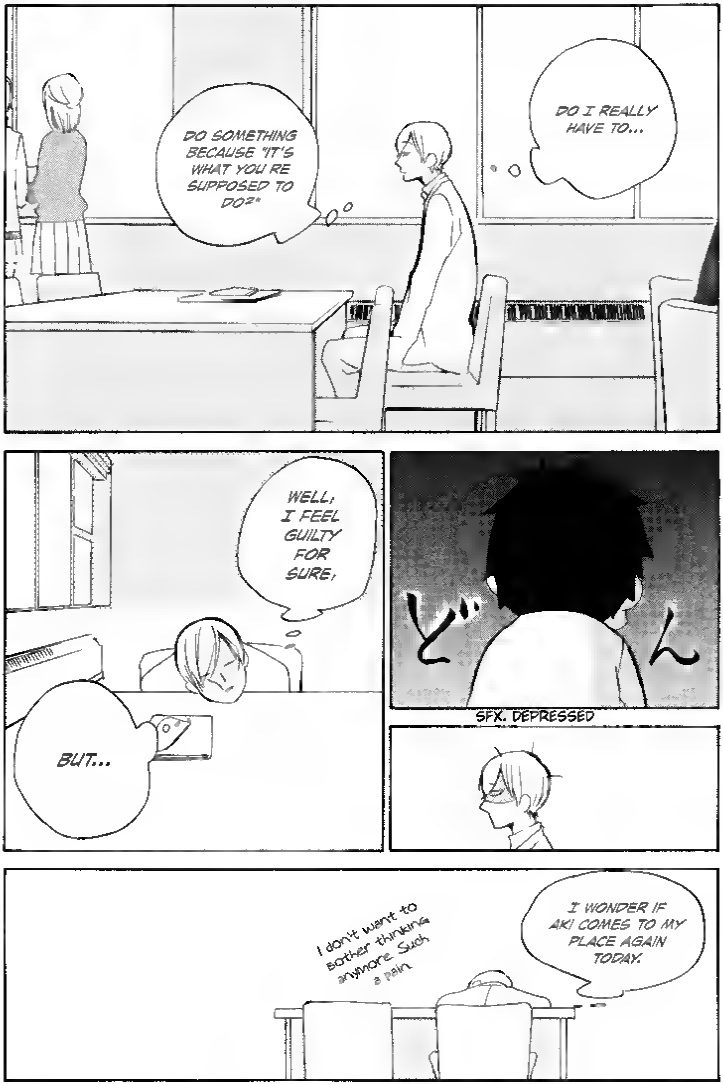
THE ACT OF SHOWING PITY IS IMPORTANT IN ITSELF, REGARDLESS OF THE RESULT.
WHAT IS PASSION?
SENPAI,
YOU OUGHT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THAT CHILD.
OH, THERE YOU ARE AGAIN.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO RUN INTO YOU OR ANYTHING.
HE FOLLOWS YOU VERY LOYALLY, SENPAI.
WHY DON'T YOU TREAT HIM BETTER?
WHY ARE YOU SO CAREFREE?
That response again?
HAA...
SAY,
YOU SHOULD CHEER HIM UP WHEN HE'S SAD, AND SMILE AT HIM WHEN HE RUNS TO YOU!
OR GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS!

I'D RATHER . .
LET THOSE WHO WANT IT DO THAT.
Ahaha
Ufufu
↑ Example
SO
THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER, SUCH AS "AHAHA" AND "UFUFU" WILL ECHO.
So that's what passion is like.
AH... I SEE.
Is that so?
AS I THOUGHT, YOU'RE HEARTLESS...!
WHILE YOU COULD DO SOMETHING NICE FOR HIM,
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TRYING TO AVOID HIM LIKE THAT.

THAT IS WHY THAT CHILD IS SAD.
I HEARD A MOUTHFUL OF NITPICKING
SUCH AS "WHY DON T YOU DO THIS" AND "YOU MUST DO THAT."
I MUST DOTE ON HIM BECAUSE HE FOLLOWS ME VERY LOYALLY
I MUST SHARE ALL KINDS OF EVENTS AND EMOTIONS WITH HIM
AHAHA, UFUFU.
That's what he said

MAYBE I SHOULD ACT SAD IN A MORE NOTICEABLE WAY?
THEN, SHOULD I TURN DOWN SATO AND GO TO AKI'S PLACE INSTEAD?
Even if it made the world turn against me?
THE OTHER BECAUSE THE FIRST GUY WAS SAD, AS WELL AS OF HIS OWN FAILURE.
ONE WOULD BE SAD BECAUSE HIS PLAN FAILED,
AND CAST MY EYES DOWNWARD.
I'D HUG MY KNEES PASSIONATELY.
Two depressed people
NO, NO, NO, NO.
NO, NO.

I WONDER IF I HAVE TO SHOW THE SAME AMOUNT OF PASSION JUST BECAUSE AKI FOLLOWS ME A LOT.
I DON'T WANT TO SOLELY MAKE DECISIONS WHICH SATISFIES OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.
It's just impossible.
WHY DO I HAVE TO FORCE MYSELF TO DANCE TO SOMEONE ELSE'S TUNE?
I PREFER A LESS SERIOUS MOOD...
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TRYING TO AVOID HIM LIKE THAT.
DO I HAVE TO LOVE SOMEONE BACK IF THEY LOVE ME?


DO SOMETHING BECAUSE "IT'S WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO?"
DO I REALLY HAVE TO...
WELL, I FEEL GUILTY FOR SURE,
BUT...
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SFX. DEPRESSED
I don't want to bother thinking anymore. Such a pain.
I WONDER IF AKI COMES TO MY PLACE AGAIN TODAY.

IS HE STILL GOING TO HAVE "THAT BACK?"
HAA...

fiat